

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ground Broke for Groundbreaking Garden** ***California's First Community Garden Irrigated with Recycled Water***

**SAN JOSE, CA.**— The City of San José broke ground on Wednesday, February 13 in Guadalupe Gardens for the first community garden in the state to be irrigated with recycled water. The one-acre garden will be located in Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, near Taylor Street and Coleman Avenue. When completed this August, it will be the 19<sup>th</sup> community garden in San José.

San José City Councilmember Sam Liccardo, speaking at the groundbreaking, hailed the new garden as a site for residents to grow their own produce, flowers and herbs, but also for its role in enhancing the Mayor's Green Vision for the City. One element of the Green Vision is to recycle or beneficially reuse 100 percent of our wastewater, or 100 million gallons per day.

“As the first garden of its kind in California to be irrigated with recycled water this community garden is an excellent example of a public private partnership doing good while going ‘green’,” said Councilmember Liccardo.

Recycled water has been used to grow edible food crops in California for many years. In San José, it has also been used by industry in cooling towers and for irrigation of golf courses, parks, and median strips for many years. This is the first time it has been used for a community garden. The water will be routed to the site through the South Bay Water Recycling system which consists of more than 100 miles of purple recycled water pipelines serving the cities of San José, Santa Clara and Milpitas.

“Drought or no drought, we need to be smart about water use or we will all face serious water shortages,” declared Mansour Nasser, Water Resources Deputy for the City of San José, which oversees South Bay Water Recycling. “We can’t conserve our way out of the water uncertainties caused by issues in the Delta, the long-term viability of the Sierra snow pack, and by our need to provide for future generations. An expanded use of recycled water is definitely a critical component to meet our water needs over the next 20 to 30 years.”

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The community garden and its pioneering use of recycled water for irrigation is the newest feature of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens. It illustrates the park's role as an outdoor classroom where adults and children can learn about horticulture, environmental stewardship, and the region's agricultural heritage. Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens offers a wide variety of education programs for children and adults, as well as field trips tied to State curriculum standards for grade levels kindergarten through high school.

City residents may sign up now for a garden plot by contacting Manny Perez, coordinator of the City of San Jose's Community Gardening Program, at [Manuel.Perez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Manuel.Perez@sanjoseca.gov) or 408-793-4165. More information about the community garden and educational programs available at Guadalupe River Park & Gardens can be found on the Friends' website, [www.grpg.org](http://www.grpg.org).

Guadalupe Community Garden at Guadalupe River Park & Gardens Facts...

- Newest addition to San Jose's city-wide Community Gardens program
- Developed by the City of San Jose, South Bay Water Recycling, and Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens
- Addresses the Mayor's Green Vision goal to recycled or reuse 100% of our wastewater (100 million gallons a day)
- Furthers the mission of Guadalupe Gardens to be a demonstration site for environmentally-friendly gardening
- First community garden in California to be irrigated with recycled water
- One acre in size --- state-of-the-art design
- 29 individual plots for gardeners  
(20 – 20'x20' and 9 – 15'x20')
- 4 wheelchair-accessible raised beds  
(20'x5'x32"h)
- Shade structure, picnic tables, barbeque, compost bins, tool shed, and a sink for washing produce
- Centrally located and accessible by public transportation
- Restrooms nearby in Columbus Park